

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/719,199

Applicant(s)

CAMPBELL ET AL.

Examiner

Kenneth Thompson

Art Unit

3672

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 7 July 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3-15 and 18-30.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>20060929</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Shannon W. Bates on 29 September 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Specification:

Page 4, line 5 – replaced “Figure 2 is” with - -Figures 2A and 2B, when viewed end to end, depict- -

Page 4, line 8 – replaced “Figure 4 is” with - -Figures 4A and 4B, when viewed end to end, depict- -

Page 4, line 12 – replaced “top” with - -front- -

Page 4, line 12 – replaced “front” with - -side- -

Page 5, line 12 – replaced “2 and 3, respectively” with - -2A-2B and 3- -

Page 6, line 13 – replaced “2” with - -2A- -

Page 6, line 16 – replaced “2” with - -2A- -

Page 6, line 17 – replaced “2 and 3” with - -2A-2B and 3- -

Page 6, line 18 – replaced “4 and 5” with - -4A-4B and 5- -

Page 6, line 24 – replaced “4, 5 or 6” with - -4A-4B, 5 or 6- -

Page 7, line 8 – replaced “4” with - -4A-4B- -

Page 7, line 10 – replaced “Figure 2” with - -Figures 2A-2B- -

Page 7, line 11 – replaced “Figure 4” with - -Figures 4A-4B- -

Page 7, line 12 – replaced “2” with - -2A-2B- -

Page 7, line 12 – replaced “4” with - -4A-4B- -

Page 7, line 13 – replaced “4” with - -4A-4B- -

Page 7, line 15 – replaced “Figure 2” with - -Figures 2A-2B- -

Page 7, line 16 – replaced “Figure 4” with - -Figures 4A-4B- -

Page 7, line 19 – replaced “2” with - -2A-2B- -

Page 7, line 19 – replaced “4” with - -4A-4B- -

Page 8, line 28 – replaced “top” with - -front- -

Page 8, line 28 – replaced “bottom” with - -back- -

Page 8, line 29 – replaced both instances of “front” with - -top- -

Page 8, line 29 – replaced both instances of “back” with - -bottom- -

Page 8, line 29 – deleted the second instance of “a”

Page 8, line 29 – replaced the third instance of “surface” with - -surfaces- -

Page 9, line 1 – replaced “bottom” with - -back- -

Page 9, line 3 – replaced “2” with - -2A-2B- -

Page 9, line 3 – replaced “4” with - -4A-4B- -

Page 9, line 8 – replaced “bottom” with - -back- -

Page 9, line 8 – inserted after the first instance of “of - -the- -

Page 9, line 14 – replaced “Fig. 4” with - -Figures 4A-4B- -

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In the Claims:

Claim 6, line 12 – replaced “a’ with - -an axially spaced- -

Claim 6, line 12 – replaced “spaced circumferentially” with - - spaced apart
circumferentially- -

Claim 21, line 16 – replaced “a’ with - -an axially spaced- -

Claim 21, line 16 – replaced “spaced circumferentially” with - - spaced apart
circumferentially- -

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to
applicant's disclosure.

Solum, U.S. 3,285,345 disclose a two pair of circumferentially spaced slips.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not disclose or suggest all the claimed subject matter
including axially spaced pairs of circumferentially spaced slips.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later
than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably
accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on
Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

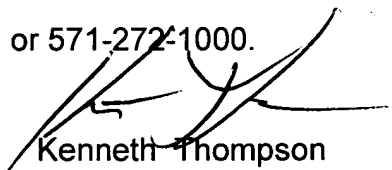
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenneth Thompson whose telephone number is 571 272-7037. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David J. Bagnell can be reached at 571-272-6999. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

29 September 2006



Kenneth Thompson
Primary Examiner
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